Anthropological Survey of India

NEWSLETTER

October-December, 2012

Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation arriving to lay the foundation stone of the Head Office building of the Anthropological Survey of India at the Salt Lake, Kolkata. Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture was on the right while Prof. K.K.Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India was on the left to the Hon'ble Minister

(Seated from right to left) Shri B.B.Bhatia, Additional Director General, CPWD, Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Prof. K.K.Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India and Dr.D.N.Pandey, Head of Office, Head Office, Anthropological Survey of India during the foundation stone laying ceremony meeting

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Head Office Building at the Salt Lake premises of the An.S.I. Kolkata

Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India laid the foundation stone for the Office Building of the Head Office of the Anthropological Survey of India on 10th October at the Salt Lake premises of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. The ceremony was also attended by Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Shri Sanjiv Mittal, Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture and many officials of the Union and State Government, as well as a few prominent citizens of Kolkata.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It is indeed a pleasure to present to you the October-December, 2012 issue of the Newsletter, incorporating some significant events during this period. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement during this quarter was the laying of the foundation stone of the much awaited Head Office building of the Anthropological Survey of India by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja, on the 10th October 2012 at Salt Lake, Kolkata. This was indeed a dream fulfilled for me and my colleagues at the Survey. This was followed by the National Advisory Committee meeting on the 30th November 2012 under the Chairpersonship of Smt Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, at Kolkata. The distinguished members of the Committee offered their suggestions in further improving the academic programs of the Survey. Sixteen new books were published during this period, besides the several issues of the in-house Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, which were shown to the distinguished members. On the 11th December 2012, our North East Regional Office at Shillong celebrated the inaugural function of the Diamond Jubilee year (1953-2012), in which HE Shri R.S.Mooshahary, the Governor of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest and Professor A.C.Bhagabati delivered the Diamond Jubilee Lecture. In the afternoon, former Director of Anthropological Survey of India, Dr. R.K. Bhattacharya, delivered the 2nd Dr. B.S.Guha Memorial Lecture, which was attended by a large audience. Our Sub-Regional Centre at Jagdalpur put up an exhibition on Tsunami and participated in the Bastar Lokatsav Festival. There were several workshops on various themes organized under the auspices of our International School of Anthropology (iSA) for the benefit of our scholars as well as for others from universities and scientific organizations. On the whole, it was a very satisfying quarter for all of us here in Anthropological Survey of India. On behalf of all my colleagues and myself, I wish you a Merry Christmas and an eventful New Year.

Professor Kamal K. Misra
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Reports of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) have been compiled to incorporate information on demographic features, literacy, progress in the implementation of Conservation-cum-Development Programmes etc. After three rounds of editing, pre-publication work of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) is near completion. Preparation of an annotated bibliography on PVTGs is also underway.

Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

While field work continued in Nasatra (Assam) and Sahajpur (West Bengal), a few more villages were taken up for study, including Bisipara (Odisha), Jamgod (Ramkheri) in Malwa (Madhya Pradesh), Ranawat Ki Sadri (Rajasthan), Nana Sanja (Gujarat), Kunkeri (Maharashtra), Madhur Bhasha and Upper Pedong (West Bengal) and Mhaisa Tibba (Himachal Pradesh).

Man & Environment: Biosphere Reserve studies

A four member team of research personnel, over a six week intensive field work, collected data on sustainable utilization of forest resources, forest dependency, livelihood pattern and health and nutrition from 16 Kani settlements inside the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. A guideline for the study was developed through a consultative workshop as per the requirements of the forest department, local communities and other stake holders.

A five member team of research personnel has initiated the first phase of field study in the Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve to document the cultural diversity as it exists in and around the Biosphere Reserve to understand the anthropogenic pressure on the existing biodiversity.

Mishing of Laika village in the center of the Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian populations

A total 1600 male samples from 32 communities have been taken up for the study of Y-SNP work in the SRC's DNA Laboratory. Eight scholars from SRC, WRC and NWRC are involved in this round of massive screening. Around 1161 samples have so far been resolved for various haplogroups and about 400 samples are in the processing stage for various other primers.

Two researchers from the NWRC, Dehradun have collected data and blood samples (132) from the Bhotia of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. Analysis is underway.

CBC count, blood grouping and DNA isolation of 142 Jain samples has also been initiated in the NWRC, Dehradun.

Genetic and Biochemical Markers of Type 2 Diabetes: A Case-Control study among South Indian Population

Taqman assay for SNP genotyping was done for 190 samples for 10 primers on RTPCR.

Molecular Evaluation of leptin and leptin receptor gene for its association with obesity in an Indian population

Taqman assay for SNP genotyping was done for 570 samples for 10 primers on RTPCR.

Biochemical and Genetic Markers of Dyslipidemia and associated risk factors: A study on Kodavas

DNA extraction was completed for 324 samples while 50 samples were checked for their quality and quantity and 324 plasma samples were analyzed for Homocystine (Immulite Analysis).

People of India: Bio-cultural Adaptation in North East India

A reconnoiter tour was undertaken among the War Jaintia in Darrang village, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya for setting up of a field camp.

Community Genetics and Health : Sickle cell anaemia and Thalassemia in central India, Nagpur city, Maharashtra

Two screening programmes were held and the collected blood samples are being analyzed.

EVENTS

Research Methods and Techniques in Anthropology

A workshop-cum-training programme on Research Methods and Techniques in Anthropology was organized from 3rd to 6th October at the IGRMS, Bhopal under the auspices of the International School of Anthropology, An.S.I. Resource personnel, Prof. P. C. Joshi and Prof. V. K. Srivastava of Delhi University delivered lectures along with some officials of the An.S.I. during the programme.

Audio-Visual Documentation

The Centre for Visual Anthropology of the Anthropological Survey of India has organised a Training Programme "Audio-Visual Documentation" under the auspices of the International School of Anthropology at the ERC, Kolkata from 1st to 7th November. Research personnel from different Regional Centers were exposed to theoretical and practical aspects of documentation and methods thereof, as a part of their research work. Inaugural session was chaired by Prof. K.K.Misra, Director and the key-note address was delivered by Prof. Gautam Bhadra. Faculty and resource personnel were drawn from among film school teachers, veteran documentary film makers and officials of the Anthropological Survey of India.

Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture and Chairperson of the National Advisory Committe of the An.S.I. releasing the book, "Traditional Knowledge in Indian Society" during the National Advisory Committee meeting

National Advisory Committee meeting

The National Advisory Committee of the Anthropological Survey of India met, on 30th November, at the ERC, Kolkata. The meet was chaired by Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the action taken report was presented by Prof. K.K.Misra, Director. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of the An.S.I.

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, An.S.I. (in the center) chaired the inaugural session of the Training Programme "Audio-visual Documentation"

Diamond Jubilee, NERC

The year-long Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the NERC, Shillong was inaugurated by the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri R.S.Mooshahary. While noting the contribution of the North East Regional Center, Shri Mooshahary suggested a few new directions it could take in the coming years. Prof. K.K.Misra, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India lauded the visionary nature of the Founding Director, Dr.B.S.Guha who was instrumental in establishing the Center and took note of the strides made by the NERC in the past sixty years. Dr.R.K.Bhattacharya, formerly Director of the Anthropological Survey of India delivered the second Dr.B.S.Guha Memorial Lecture, on the occasssion.

Shri R. S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya lighting the traditional lamp during the inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, NERC, Shillong while Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, An.S.I., Prof. A. C. Bhagabati and others look on

Dr. R. K. Bhattacharya, former Director of the Anthropological Survey of India delivering the second B. S. Guha Memorial Lecture

Sub-Regional Center, Jagdalpur

The Sub-Regional Center of the Anthropological Survey of India has organised an exhibition "Tsunami: Disaster of 21st Century" at Jagdalpur from 16th to 26th October. In the Dussehra Exhibition organised by the Survey at Jagdalpur, Shri Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has awarded a consolation prize and a certificate to the Survey. Another programme, Bastar Lokotsav Festival, held at the same station was visited by a number of prominent persons of the area including the VIPs and others.

Executive Committee meeting

The Executive Committee meeting of the Anthropological Survey of India was held on the 12th of December at the NERC, Shillong. A review was made of the research projects, under implementation in the An.S.I. and the expenditure as well as funds position was reviewed in respect of the Head Office, Regional Centers and the Sub-Regional Center.

Exhibition of Paintings

A solo exhibition of paintings from tribal India, entitled Celebrating Indian Heritage by Shri Anup Giri, the artist-in residence at the Anthropological Survey of India was inaugurated for the public, by Prof. K. K.Misra, Director of the An.S.I. at the Jehangir ArtGallery, Mumbai on 25th December.

Young Scientist Award

Dr. P.N.Venu Gopal has received the Young Scientist Award for his research paper "A Novel 39bp deletion in P4HA3 associated with Spondylo Epi (Meta) Physeal Dysplasia Handigodu type (SEMDHG)" during the "38th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics and International Symposium on Developmental and Complex Disorders".

Appointment

Shri Maishnam Rustam Singh, Shri Yumnam Momo Singh, Shri Reddy Narasimha Naidu, Smt. Nandini Bhattacharya, Smt. Koel Mukherjee, Smt. Yikham Gogoi, Shri Chandra Sekhar Roy, Shri Venugopal, P. N., Shri Shiv Kumar Patel and Shri Potnuri Nani Babu were selected as Research Associate (Physical) for appointment in the Anthropological Survey of India.

Departmental Promotion

On the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committees', fourteen employees have been promoted. Shri G.C.Ojha was promoted from the position of Research Associate to Assistant Anthropologist(Cultural); Shri Sudip Kumar De, Smt. Dipti Nath from Stenographer Grade II, Shri V.V.Chettiar, Shri A.K.Minz & Smt. Dipali Bhattacharya from Assistant

Bison Horn Maria dancers during the Navakhani ritual, Dussehra Utsav, Jagdalpur

to Office Superintendent; Smt. Indira Jain, Shri K. Senthilvel, Shri Biplab Mondal, Shri Shankar Chatterjee, Shri Soumen Das, Shri Animesh Kumar Pal, Smt. J. Paswett and Shri P.G.Mozarkar from Lower Division Assistant to Upper Division Assistant. And in addition, Shri M.Guru Santha has joined as the Statistical Investigator, Grade I.

Superannuation

During the last quarter of 2012, Shri T. W. Waghmare (October), Dr. S. Patil, Dr. P. K.Guha & Shri V. V.Chettiar (November), Dr. B. Francis Kulirani, Dr. Amitabha Sarkar, Shri G. C. Ojha, Smt. Gitanjali Barua, Smt. Dipali Bhattacharya & Smt. Minakshi Chakraborty have retired from the active Government service, on attaining the age of superannuation during the months given in the parentheses.

Publications

Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, Vols. 58 (1-4), 2009 and 59 (1-4), 2010. ISSN 2277-436X

Tourism in the Andaman Islands by A. Justin

Traditional Knowledge in Indian Society (Eds.) Amitabha Sarkar, A..V. Arakeri & S. Patil

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. speaking during the workshop-cum-training programme on Research Methods and Techniques in Anthropology

Cultural Dimension of Tourism in Meghalaya by R. R. Gowloog, M.Sasikumar, R.Senkuttuvan

Urban poor of Vishakhapatnam City by B.V. Raviprasad

Bagals of Border Bengal by Swapan K. Chakraborty

Introducing faith Healing by Tushar K. Neyogi

Ethno-Medicinal Study among the Hill Korwas of Chhattisgarh by R. K. Gautam (Hindi)

Dalit Movement in Karnataka : An Overview by S. G. Morab

Traditional Wisdom and Sustainable Living (Eds.) H.K.Mandal & Amitabha Sarkar

Man in Biosphere: Simlipal (Ed.) Samit Ghosal

Man in Biosphere: Kanchendezonga (Eds.) Ramesh Chandra, D. B. Mondal & A. K. Singh

Resilience and Identity in Urban India: The Anthropology of Barmer and Tehri by Sibir Ranjan Das, P. K. Guha, S. S. Mishra & G. K. Bera.

Sardi Village: A Study of Tradition and Change by William Ekka, R. K. Sinha & Dalapati Murmu

Faculty & Participants of the workshop-cum-training programme on "Research Methods and Techniques in Anthropology" at the IGRMS, Bhopal

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of Anthropological Survey of India lighting the lamp during the inauguration of the exhibition "Celebrating Indian Heritage"

Front Cover : Baiga, Madhya Pradesh
Paintings on the Back Cover are by Shri Anup Giri

Published by
Director
Anthropological Survey of India
Ministry of Culture
Government of India
27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata – 700 016
Phone : (033) 22861781 / 22861733 / 22529892
Email : newsletter@ansi.gov.in | Website : www.ansi.gov.in

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